

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR JULY 18, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



1. **Braemar Golf** – Braemar will celebrate its 50th anniversary next week. We will serve cupcakes from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on July 23 and are in the process of planning special events for Sept. 25-27, including a golf tournament, junior event and movie night.

Saturday, July 19 will be our first of two Drive-In Movie Nights to be held at the Driving Range at 9 p.m. We will be showing the edited version of “Tin Cup” under the stars!

We have had over 800 youth pass through our junior programs this summer. We introduced two group golf classes for 6 and 7 year olds for the first time this summer. Both classes sold out. We will offer more classes to this age group going forward. Virtually all of our junior programs were at capacity this summer with waiting lists. This includes our Junior Development Program, all five of our Junior Golf Leagues and our Junior Group Lessons. Our Junior Club Championship (scheduled for July 25) will be in combination with our Junior League in hopes of generating more widespread interest in the event.

2. **Employee News** – Joe Totten has accepted our offer to become our next Traffic Safety Coordinator. He has been filling that position on an interim basis the past few months and has been doing a great job. He comes to us from the University of Minnesota. We look forward making him a permanent addition to our engineering staff.

Andrew Scipioni has accepted our offer to become one of our Engineering Technicians. He has been working with us as an intern this summer and has worked out so well that we wanted to make him a permanent addition to our team. He comes to us from Michigan Technological University and his family has a history of public service in positions with the City of Eagan.

Megan Davis will start her new job as a part-time Graphic Designer on Tuesday, July 22. Megan is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a bachelor’s degree in Graphic Design. She has worked as a Marketing, Design and Events Assistant for Twin Cities Orthopedics and was a Graphic Design Intern for the University of Minnesota’s Department of Recreational Sports.

Bradley Alto and Philip Erickson will begin work on Monday, July 21 as Building Inspector Interns for the Building Inspections Division. Bradley holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in History/Psychology and Law Enforcement from Minnesota State University. He also holds a vocational degree from north Hennepin Community College in Building Inspection Technology. Philip holds a master's degree from North Dakota State University in Architecture.

3. **Single-Family Home Building** – From Jan. 1 through July 15, the City has issued 57 demolition permits and 51 new single-family home permits. There have been 15 new single-family home permits applied for, but have not yet been issued. The City is on pace to exceed 100 new single family home permits, similar to 2013.
4. **Water Billing Changes** – The Finance Department is starting to implement a procedural change to the way we bill utilities for residential rental properties. The City has a history of allowing residential tenants to be the primary contact in our billing system. However, the City has always held property owners responsible for outstanding charges on the account through the annual certification process. This can create confusion between owners and tenants about who is responsible for a bill, with the City in the middle. Going forward, we will require owners to be the primary contact on all utility accounts. The City will still send a duplicate bill to the tenant if the owner requests. In addition, we plan to continue honoring owner requests to read the meter when tenants move out, but we will no longer send a bill based on that interim reading. The owner will get their regularly scheduled bill every three months. For now we are implementing the change as tenants and owners contact us about moves, but starting in the upcoming months, we will be communicating with owners about making a mass change for all residential accounts currently in the name of tenants. The City has approximately 400 accounts that will be affected by this change.
5. **Employee Engagement** – The City is preparing to conduct its first employee engagement survey during the first two weeks of August using the firm DecisionWise. Engagement is the discretionary effort an employee puts forth to help the organization meet its goals. Research closely correlates engagement to key performance metrics such as retention, financial results and customer satisfaction. We intend to measure employee engagement on a biennial basis as part of our performance measurement system.
6. **Cal Ripken Jr.** – Edina hosted the Cal Ripken Junior Camp at Braemar Courtney Fields. The Camp ran July 14-16 and Cal Ripken made an appearance the afternoon of Tuesday, July 15, to visit with campers and staff. He donated two autographed jerseys to Edina Parks & Recreation and Edina Baseball Association.
7. **Remote Noise Towers** – Council Member Joni Bennett and I met with Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC) staff this week to discuss their early thoughts on viable locations for the remote monitoring towers (RMT) they intend to place in Edina later this fall. MAC technicians will conduct site visits to possible RMT locations later this month.
8. **Street Reconstruction Meetings** – Staff will conduct neighborhood information meetings for the Dewey Hill G and Prospect Knolls B and Arden Park Neighborhood Reconstruction Projects on July 28 and 31, respectively. We will present our initial thoughts about the improvements and gather feedback from residents.
9. **Senior Center News** – We had our first-ever beer tasting on Wednesday evening June 25 at the Senior Center. 23 people paid \$15 each and learned about and sampled 11 Minnesota craft beers, and ate popcorn, pretzels, peanuts, cheese,

meats and crackers. Edina Liquor provided the beer and expert speaker. Participants also learned that the liquor store “profits get poured back to the community.” A preference list was offered to participants and their wish list was made available to them at the store.

10. Farmers Market Flash Mob – Our first ever senior flash mob was held Thursday, July 17, at the Farmers Market at Centennial Lakes. You can view the performance on Facebook or our YouTube channel. The Senior Center hopes to have another flash mob at Jerry’s Food in August at its grand opening. We have 46 people who have attend practices on Saturday mornings.